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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman M. **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 25, Humanitarian assistance

1. At its 28th meeting, on 28 June 2001, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 25, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 25 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The importance of the programme and the high priority given to the programme in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was stressed. Support was expressed for the activities of the section, particularly on activities related to natural disasters and complex emergencies. The critical coordination role played by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the activities of the United Nations system was emphasized. In addition, support was expressed for the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

4. It was underlined that White Helmets worked in an efficient manner with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to give relief in a specific

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situation. It was stated that initiatives such as White Helmets should be encouraged and developed worldwide.

5. The view was expressed that the objectives of the section were clear in their delivery of humanitarian assistance and that they were well elaborated and coordinated with the medium-term plan. It was noted that the programme narratives had improved in comparison with the narratives of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. While it was observed that, in general, the expected accomplishments had linkages to the medium-term plan, some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements could be further harmonized with the text of the medium-term plan.

6. It was pointed out that, while the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, emphasized the more timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, the more timely response to countries in or emerging from civil crisis, the more timely delivery of assistance to victims of natural disasters and provision of relief, logistics, funding and contingency planning, no reference to the phrase "more timely" was made in the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements proposed by the Office. The view was expressed that further refinements to the indicators of achievement could be made in order to ensure they could be effectively measurable. It was pointed out that the expected accomplishments should have included adequate coordination among the United Nations agencies and programmes for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel.

7. Concern was expressed about the absence of references to internally displaced persons in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. It was pointed out that internally displaced persons were not only the product of humanitarian crises, but also natural disasters and various economic situations. In implementing its programme of work on internally displaced persons, therefore, the Office should be guided by those distinctions.

8. It was emphasized that the roles of New York, Geneva and the field should be complementary. The implementation of emergency rules and procedures was welcomed. The view was expressed that it was important to enhance the capacity of the Office to respond to natural disasters. The view was also expressed that, while there was a need for surge capacities, there was no need to reclassify posts at higher levels. It was pointed out that the professionalism of the staff of the Office increased each year.

9. Reference was made to General Assembly resolution 46/182 and to the linkage of the legislative mandate contained in that resolution to the role of the Secretary-General in responding to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies. It was pointed out that a clear distinction should be made between the legislative mandate in respect of humanitarian assistance and the role of the Secretary-General as executive officer of the United Nations.

10. Concern was expressed regarding the percentage of extrabudgetary resources in the overall level of resources of the section, since shortfalls in voluntary contributions would have a negative effect in the implementation of the Office's programme of work. The view was expressed, however, that in some other sections, the percentage of extrabudgetary resources in the overall level of resources was higher than that of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

11. The view was expressed that donors, in making voluntary contributions, should pre-allocate those resources as little as possible and allow the Office to utilize those resources in the areas where it needed them most.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 25, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Table 25.6

Delete (b) under expected accomplishments.

Delete (b) under indicators of achievements.

[Delete (c) under expected accomplishments.]

[Delete (c) under indicators of achievements.]

Delete "Increased attention to and respect for an active and visible policy of" in (d) under expected accomplishments.

Paragraph 25.18

Paragraph (b) (iii) replace the words "human rights and international humanitarian law" with "international humanitarian law and human rights instruments".

Paragraph (b) (vi) should read "Paper requested by the Security Council on protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations (1)".

At the end of paragraph (b) (viii), add the words "in strict conformity with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality and to ensure that they are not working at cross-purposes".

Paragraph (c) (iv) should read "Production of inter-agency training package on enhancing the provision of humanitarian assistance to all populations in need".

Add a new paragraph after (c) (iv), "(v) Collaboration with other agencies to support and to promote the efforts of Governments of affected countries upon their request to assist and to protect internally displaced persons".

Delete paragraph (c) (vi) and renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Paragraph 25.27

In the second sentence, add the words "where appropriate" after the word "Framework".

Table 25.10

Expected accomplishment (a) should read "increased capacity of developing countries for preparedness in disaster prevention and mitigation".

Indicator of achievement (a) should read "increase in the number of developing countries having the technical capacity to deal with disaster prevention and mitigation".

Add a new expected accomplishment (b), which should read "increased participation by developing countries in disaster reduction-related training and seminars".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b), which should read "the number of experts from developing countries participating in training seminars on disaster prevention".

Renumber the existing expected accomplishment and indicators of achievements from (b) to (c).

Delete expected accomplishment (d), and renumber the existing indicators of achievements from (d) to (e).

Renumber the existing expected accomplishment and indicators of achievements from (c) to (d).

Add a new expected accomplishment:

> **"(e) Better and more effective coordination in the mobilization of international support to contribute in the preventive management and rehabilitation related to natural disasters".**

Paragraph 25.30 (c) (i)

Add a new item "n. Update inventory of the resources available to help deal with natural disasters".

Table 25.12

Delete (a) under expected accomplishments.

Delete (a) under indicators of achievements.

Renumber expected accomplishment and indicators of achievements from (b) to (a) and from (c) to (b).

Add new (c) expected accomplishment as follows:

> **"Increased capacity of developing countries to deal with disaster relief."**

Add new (c) indicator of achievement as follows:

> **"Increased participation in training seminars on disaster management, improved field and regional cooperation in**

disaster management and increased donor response to inter-agency appeals".

Under expected accomplishments (b) and (d), after the words "environmental disasters", add the words, "as well as technological accidents".

Table 25.14

Under expected accomplishment (b), after the words "United Nations", delete the remainder of the paragraph.